

BILLERICAY

Rural District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1899.

CHELMSFORD :

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MCM.

REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

The following is my report for the year 1899 :—

For sanitary purposes this Union now consists of 24 parishes, Brentwood having been formed into an Urban District, with its own Health Officers. According to the census of 1891, this will lessen the population of our old Sanitary District by 4,949, as in addition to the population of Brentwood proper the children in the Hackney Schools (540) and in St. Charles' Schools (178) have to be added to the 4,231 of the Brentwood parish.

Extent of
District.

As the London Board School, which is in Shenfield parish, has been closed, the population of our present Sanitary District will be 15,505, of which 4,854 are included in the Eastern and 10,651 in the Western Division,

The number of births registered during the year was 373. Of these 152 were in the Eastern Division—79 boys and 73 girls; and 221 in the Western Division—101 boys and 120 girls. Three of the births in the Eastern Division were in the Workhouse.

Births.

The number of deaths registered was 510. Of these 78 were in the Eastern Division, 119 in the Western, 34 in the Workhouse, and 279 in the Asylum.

Deaths.

For statistical purposes the Barracks with a population of 1,019, and the Asylum with a population of 1,469, making a total of 2,488, are omitted. The total of the Western Division for these purposes is therefore 8,163. Also from the Eastern Division 224 inmates of the Workhouse have to be deducted, leaving a total of 4,630.

Birth and
Death Rate.

The birth rate for the Eastern Division is 32·18. The death rate for the same Division is 16·84, and the infantile death rate amounts up to 125 per 1,000—births and deaths in the Workhouse not included.

For the Western Division the birth rate is 27·07, the death rate 14·57, and the infantile death rate 108·5 per thousand of population,

The birth rate of the whole Sanitary District is 28·57, and the death rate is 17·74, births and deaths in Workhouse included.

Deaths at
Advanced Age

Of deaths at advanced age there were in the Eastern Division 10 between 80 and 90 and two over 90, the oldest being 94. In the Western Division there were 12 between 80 and 90. In the Workhouse there were 11 deaths between 80 and 90 and two over 90, the oldest being 97.

The following tables will show the ages at which death occurred and the diseases causing death.

The mortality in the Asylum is exceptionally high.

<p>NAMES OF LOCALITIES</p> <p>adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.</p> <p>(a)</p>	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
EASTERN DIVISION ...	78	19	6	3	2	18	30
WESTERN DIVISION ...	119	24	13	4	1	36	41
WORKHOUSE ...	34	0	2	0	0	6	26
WARLEY BARRACKS ...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...
ASYLUM ...	279	3	0	1	7	193	75
TOTALS ...	510	46	21	8	10	253	172

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

DISTRICT.		FEVERS.										Membranous Group	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	4	5	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	FEVERS.					Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea & Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Influenza	Injuries	All other Diseases	Total																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
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Deaths from
Zymotic
Disease.

The deaths from the 8 principal Zymotic Diseases amounted to 29. They occurred—12 in the Eastern, and 17 in the Western Division. The eight principal Zymotic Diseases are as follows, and with them is given the number of deaths they respectively caused :—
Smallpox, 0 ; scarlatina, 0 ; diphtheria, 1 ; typhoid fever, 1 ; erysipelas, 0 ; whooping cough, 9 ; measles, 0 ; diarrhoea, 16.

Phthisis.

Consumption caused 11 deaths as follows :—4 in the Eastern District, 1 in the Workhouse, and 6 in the Western District. There were 19 deaths in the Asylum.

Influenza.

Ten deaths were attributed to Influenza.

Cancer.

Cancer caused 10 deaths :—3 males and 4 females in the Western Division ; and 2 males and 1 female in the Eastern Division. There were five deaths in the Asylum.

There were 101 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year.

They were distributed as follows :—

Population Census 1891		LOCALITY.	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas	Membranous Croup	Anthrax	Total
4,854	EASTERN DIVISION	BASSILDON	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
		RAMSDEN CRAYS ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	3
		LAINDON	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
		GREAT BURSTEAD ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
		PITSEA	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
		VANGE	13	...	1	...	...	...	...	14
		WICKFORD ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
		DOWNHAM	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
		BOWERS	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
8,163	WESTERN DIVISION	SHENFIELD	5	3	3	...	...	...	...	11
		SOUTH WEALD	11	3	9	1	2	1	2	29
		INGRAVE	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	3
		HUTTON ... ..	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	3
		MOUNTNESSING ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
		DUNTON	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
		EAST HORNDON ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
		LITTLE WARLEY ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		LITTLE BURSTEAD ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
1,469		ASYLUM ... ..	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	5
224		WORKHOUSE ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		TOTALS	54	9	24	2	9	1	2	101

NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

DISTRICT.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid.
... ..	2	2	2
... ..	2	1	...
... ..	4	5	4
TOTAL ...	8	8	6

Scarlatina.

Of the total of 54 cases of Scarlatina reported, 31 were distributed over ten families, the remaining 23 cases occurred in as many families. They were spread over 12 parishes, the principal sufferers being Vange with 13 cases, South Weald with 11, and Dunton with 8. Two cases were imported, and in 12, at least, school attendance seemed to be the medium of propagation. In about half the cases there was no ascertainable source of infection, and with the exception of a few cases, the sanitary surroundings were satisfactory. In no case was the purity of the milk in question, and in no parish did the outbreak amount to anything like an epidemic. The schools at Vange and Dunton were closed, and the benefit derived was immediately apparent.

Diphtheria.

Nineteen cases of Diphtheria were reported, 3 being in one family and the remaining 16 in 16 families. Eight parishes were invaded, nine being the largest number in any one parish—South Weald. Five cases were reported from the Asylum in addition.

The infection of three members of one family occurred in South Weald, all having come into contact with the same original case. With the exception of two cases which arose in rather damp and dilapidated cottages in Ingrave, and one in South Weald, the surrounding conditions in practically all the invasions were very fairly satisfactory. In several of the cases school attendance seems to have been the most probable means of conveying the infection.

Of the 5 cases reported from the Asylum, the first was an attendant, who probably contracted the disease outside. Of the patients attended by him one was infected.

Typhoid.

Nine cases of Typhoid were reported. They all arose in separate families, and were distributed over 5 parishes.

In 2 cases at South Weald, and 1 each in Hutton and Mountnessing, the sanitary surroundings were bad.

Two cases were imported into Shenfield, one from Southend and one from Brentwood. The latter of these terminated fatally.

One case at Billericay was imported from Norfolk.

Isolated cases arose in Rose Valley, Shenfield, and in Ingrave, without ascertainable cause.

There were 2 cases of Anthrax reported, both from South Weald. The two men were together skinning a cow, in which animal there had been no suspicion of anthrax. Both patients were removed to the London Hospital as soon as the condition was recognised.

Anthrax.

Influenza became widely prevalent towards the end of January, and continued throughout February and March. It again showed itself in December. The type of case was not so severe as in previous years, and only 10 deaths were directly attributed to it.

Influenza.

The Hospital was unoccupied for a total period of 71 days.

Union District
Hospital.

The number of patients admitted during the year was 23:—9 Scarlet Fever, 8 Diphtheria, 6 Typhoid Fever

The average stay of patients was:—

For Scarlet Fever 41 days
For Diphtheria 30 days,
For Typhoid Fever 19 days.

The statistics of stay in Hospital of cases of Typhoid Fever give an average which is practically useless by reason of two cases which were admitted, one quite hopelessly ill, death supervening in two days, and the second dying on the sixth day.

There were four deaths in Hospital during the year, two from Diphtheria and two from Typhoid Fever.

I regret to say that the assistant nurse became ill with Typhoid Fever, and was for weeks in a very critical condition. She was taken ill on September 8, and discharged from Hospital just before Christmas, a very rare complication, cerebro spinal meningitis having supervened. She had been a most useful nurse, cheerful and willing, and was much liked by all the patients.

Nurse Merrion also had a very trying time, and has done her duty well, as she always has, and to my entire satisfaction.

I am glad to say that the Sanitary Authority has decided to add to the present building further accommodation for the nurses, and I hope also that before long a man to do the heavier work about the place and a woman to give assistance in the house-work, with a lodge at the gate to reside in, will make the Hospital more complete, and will enable the nurses to devote their time to the work which is their especial province, the nursing of the sick.

Some plan of this kind is necessary, as it is almost impossible to get occasional help in a so-called "Fever Hospital."

Drainage
of Billericay.

A plan of sewerage for the town of Billericay has been formulated, and has met with the approval of the Local Government Board.

By it, the sewage would be carried to the south-east of the town, across Jackson's-lane, and then, after passing through bacteria beds, would be discharged on to the land, and finally, by filtration, find its way into the brook ditch which crosses the road below French's farm, and is really one of the first tributaries of the Crouch. This is the present course of the

sewage of a considerable part of the town, and it is now discharged into this same brook - ditch without any attempt at purification.

A scheme for a supply of water to this part of the district was approved by the Sanitary Authority, and the matter was brought under the notice of the Local Government Board, with a view to borrowing the necessary capital. One of the Inspectors of the Board, Colonel Durnford, came down and held an inquiry. Subsequently, a plan was submitted from the Water Board, proposing to supply water from the other side of the county, and to buy up the existing South Essex water works. The South Essex Water Company on their part proposed a scheme to supply any part of this sanitary district with water, and at no distant period.

Slyce's Gate
Water Supply.

Up to the end of the year nothing was decided, but on comparing the two schemes, that of the South Essex Company would seem to promise a supply at less cost and at an earlier date.

Should either of these plans be adopted we would not require to carry out our proposed works at Slyce's Gate.

Many of the wells in all parts of the district have been dry this last summer, and in the neighbourhood of Billericay and in the town itself some are so still. Through a great part of our Sanitary District, certainly the whole of the Eastern Division of our District, there has been a great scarcity of water, and in nearly all other parishes, owing to the small rainfall for the last few years, ponds and wells have both been dry. A public water supply to these places would seem to be almost a necessity.

The usual inspections have been made of slaughter houses and dairies and any defects remedied.

General
Inspection.

Vagrants.

The new vagrants' wards have come into use, and a considerable diminution in the number of vagrants has in consequence resulted.

The number of vagrants admitted during the nine months ending December, 1898, was 5,051.

During the nine months, ending December, 1899, it was 1,321.

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

FRED CARTER, M.D.,

M. O. H. Rural District Council.
